

REMARKS

As referred to in the Remarks portion of the Amendment filed on July 2, 2004, paragraph 2 of the Office Action dated April 2, 2004, a new Title was suggested, and that suggestion has been adopted by Applicants, as set forth in the foregoing Amendment.

In succeeding paragraphs of the Office Action the claims were rejected in view of the previously cited Takazawa and Ukita patents, and the newly cited Sugiki patent. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as now presented in this application are patentable over those references for the reasons given below.

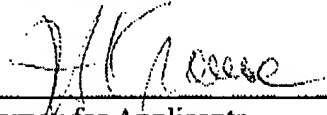
First, with reference to independent Claim 1, Applicants point out that the image pickup apparatus defined therein has an operation circuit providing at least two difference signals on the basis of a periodicity unit of two rows x two columns of a filter array. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose such configuration. In particular, in the Office Action, while it is acknowledged that the principal rejecting reference, namely, the Takazawa patent, does not disclose such an operation circuit as called for in Claim 1, the Ukita patent is relied upon as disclosing such structure. In Ukita, however, Fig. 8 (which is relied upon in the Office Action) does not disclose a two rows x two columns periodicity unit of color filters. Instead, Fig. 8 clearly shows a four rows x two columns array. Accordingly, Ukita also fails to disclose an operation circuit which provides at least two different color difference signals on the basis of the periodicity unit of two rows x two columns.

Claims 38 and 39 have now been cancelled.

For these various reasons Applicants believe that all of the claims as now presented are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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